



# Eugene Outdoors!

A publication of the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division

[www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/parks](http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/parks)



SUMMER  
2002  
FALL

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## A CITY GROWS UP AROUND THE RIVER

Eugene Skinner had the right idea when he built his cabin at the base of Skinner Butte overlooking the Willamette River in fall 1846. He recognized that his riverfront property was prime real estate for his home and future trading and ferry ventures. Indeed, a city grew up around the river and the river has remained a distinctive, riveting and cherished centerpiece throughout Eugene's history.

Though Skinner's original claim was bought and sold a few times, by the early 1890s the area had become publicly owned by the precursor to today's Eugene Water and Electric Board. In 1914, the public utility relinquished the land around Skinner Butte and the first riverfront public park was created at Skinner Butte. In an effort to preserve the historical and natural attributes of the area, the City continued to purchase small parcels of land until parkland extended from the Ferry Street Bridge to Polk Street.

In the following years, the riverfront became the hub of local recreational activities. In the 1920s, city park improvement bonds were passed by Eugene voters and invested in park projects, including the development of a

in the late 1930s because the Willamette River had become severely polluted from sewage and industrial waste.

River clean-up efforts began by hooking-up industrial discharges to the sanitary sewer. By the 1970s, more comprehensive solutions were implemented. The City of Eugene separated its storm and sanitary sewer systems to eliminate the discharge of raw sewage during heavy rain storms. In the early 1980s, the Eugene-Springfield Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission was formed and a sewer line was built from Springfield to a modern wastewater treatment plant designed to serve the greater metropolitan area. These and other significant clean-up efforts have

dramatically improved the water quality of the Willamette River; and Eugene has been recognized nationally for its river clean-up efforts.

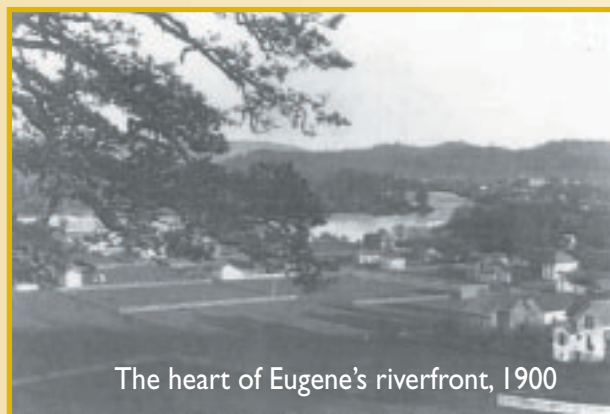
In 1951, Eugene's first garden park along the river was developed when George Owen donated riverfront land to the City and the

Eugene Rose Society helped develop a municipal rose garden. At the time the only other riverfront land the City owned was Skinner Butte Park, and private residences dotted the riverfront area west of the garden.

Fueled by the environmental

awakening of the 1970s, a new consciousness began to wind its way into the planning and development of the riverfront park system. This new ethic was embodied in the Willamette Greenway Plan, a state program designed to restore and protect the Willamette River from its headwaters to its mouth by creating a greenway along its banks. The plan recognized the interdependence between the riparian or forested area along the river and the river itself in creating a healthy and dynamic river ecosystem (see article page 3). This source of state funding, coupled with matching federal land-water conservation grants, precipitated a series of major land acquisitions in Eugene that would eventually link Skinner Butte Park and Owen Rose Garden with a chain of other city parks up and down the river. The bike path, which was started in 1973, now connects all the riverfront parks from Alton Baker Park to the Beltline, encompassing over 12 miles of riverfront trails.

Eugene Skinner's front yard has grown significantly since he built his modest cabin over 150 years ago. So has the number of people who now own and enjoy the heart of Eugene's riverfront. For more information about your riverfront park system, see the centerfold on pages 4 and 5.



The heart of Eugene's riverfront, 1900

waterfront recreational area at Skinner Butte. Hot summer days drew crowds to the favorite swimming hole on the river, complete with a bathhouse, docks and water wheels and supervised by lifeguards. This recreational activity was suspended and swimming was banned

## HERE COME THE LEAVES

Each fall, the more than 75,000 street trees in Eugene shed their leaves. Though leaf piles are the delight of children, leaves can clog gutters, catch basins, and stormwater lines and cause street flooding. Decomposing leaves deplete oxygen from water, harming fish and other aquatic wildlife.

Several decades ago, a leaf collection program was implemented in response to these stormwater maintenance issues. The program received an overwhelmingly positive response from the community and has since become an annual program. Leaves are now recycled, and the rich, compostable material is shared with residents, the City's community gardens, community groups such as Food

for Lane County, and commercial recyclers. The rest is stockpiled on undeveloped parkland, allowed to decompose, aerated, screened, and used in City parks. About 3,000 tons of leaves are recycled every year.

Eugene residents are encouraged to recycle their leaves. Leaves can be used as mulch or compost for gardens and flowerbeds. Use them on your own garden and share them with friends and neighbors. Excess leaves can be disposed of through the curbside yard debris collection service or piled in the street for collection by City crews. Please be sure to avoid obstructing bike lanes, though.

For the leaf collection schedule or to order leaf delivery, call 682-4800 or visit any community center, the library, or [www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/leaves/index.htm](http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/leaves/index.htm).

## PARKS ON THE WEB

The Parks and Open Space Division is launching a redesign of the division's website. Give your input about the kind of changes you'd like to see on the web-based questionnaire at [www.ci.eugene.or.us/forms/pos/q\\_nnaire.asp](http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/forms/pos/q_nnaire.asp).

## WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR EUGENE'S PARKS AND RECREATION?

A comprehensive planning effort is currently underway to chart the future for Eugene's parks, recreation, and open space system and the central question is: what do you as a citizen, a park user, and a taxpayer want? City staff are committed to involving as many Eugene citizens as possible in this process—from bird-watchers to skateboarders, residents from Santa Clara to the South Hills, young people to seniors, artists to arborists, athletes to fans.

To this end, Mayor Torrey recently selected 12 community members representing a range of interests and neighborhoods to serve on the plan's Mayor's Committee. Committee members, in conjunction with City staff, will solicit public input through a series of community meetings and make recommendations to enhance neighborhood, community and regional parks; open space; and recreational facilities and programs, as well as develop strategies to improve facility maintenance, management and funding. The process began in July with the selection of a consultant and will take approximately 12 months to complete. For more information, call Parks and Open Space Planning Manager Andrea Riner at 682-4800.

## NEW FIRE TRUCK AT AMAZON PARK

Children can don their firefighter hats and jump aboard a new and safer fire truck at Amazon Park. The Park Amenities crew recently installed the climbing structure, which is approved by the American Society for Testing and Materials, to replace the old 1925 fire truck that was a popular and unique feature in the park for several decades but did not meet current, national safety standards.

The old fire truck will find a new home at the Oregon Fire Museum in Salem, thanks to Deputy Fire Marshal Greg Musil. Musil requested the truck be donated to the museum when plans were announced to replace it.

For more information about this and other playground improvement projects, call 682-4800.



## EUGENE'S PARKS AND OPEN SPACE RECEIVE HONORS



This summer Eugene's Parks and Open Space Division received an Honorable Mention in the U.S. Conference of Mayors City Livability Awards for cities over 100,000 in population and special recognition from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) international Active Cities Contest.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognized Eugene's parks and open space for improving the quality of life for its residents and Mayor Jim Torrey for his leadership role in establishing the Mayors Committee for Parks and Open Space that resulted in the 1998 bond measure. First place went to the City of Chicago.

PAHO and CDC recognized Eugene for providing its residents with diverse opportunities to actively enjoy parks and open space. Over 140 cities from North America and Latin America submitted applications. Surrey, British Columbia, Canada received the highest honor for a North American city. Eugene was the only U.S. community to be recognized. The contest was created to celebrate World Health Day 2002 and promote an active lifestyle as one of the best ways to prevent disease, manage stress, bolster self-esteem, and enhance mental health. The health agencies cite lack of physical activity as a serious public health problem.

For more information, visit [www.usmayors.org/70thAnnualMeeting/madisonlivability\\_061502.asp](http://www.usmayors.org/70thAnnualMeeting/madisonlivability_061502.asp) or [www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/worldhealth/contest.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/worldhealth/contest.htm).

**Correction:** We apologize

**OOPs!**

for failing to credit Bob Graef for the photographs of the February 7, 2002, windstorm on page 7 in the spring 2002 issue of Eugene Outdoors!

Eugene Outdoors! is published semiannually by the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division to share information about Eugene's parks and open space and encourage the community to enjoy these natural and recreational areas. Let us know what you think about Eugene's parks and open space. Contact us by phone, mail, e-mail, or through the web:

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# THE MIGHTY WILLAMETTE RIVER

“OH GIVE ME A HOME WHERE CHINOOK SALMON ROAM AND THE WATERS FLOW CLEAR ALL DAY LONG”

By Trevor Taylor



The cultural and ecological history of the Pacific Northwest has been shaped by the powerful rivers that flow through our land. In Eugene, the mighty Willamette River is the centerpiece of our community. Around this glorious landmark, our city developed. The river is also home to many different species of plants and wildlife, including the imperiled Chinook salmon. Salmon have played an important role economically, religiously and recreationally and as an important food source in the Pacific Northwest since well before the arrival of the first Euro-American settlers. Unfortunately, populations of this culturally and ecologically important species have declined to the point where they have now been listed as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act. Reasons for their decline are many, the most significant being degraded and lost habitat. In Eugene we are fortunate. Our publicly owned, riverfront park system (see feature story, page 1) provides us with opportunities to protect and enhance salmon habitat throughout much of our city.

As you walk or ride along our extensive riverfront trail system, take note of the lush vegetation along the river. This area along the river is called the **riparian** zone. We usually think of

the river as consisting only of the water flowing down the main channel. However, the riparian forest along the edges of the water is dynamically entwined with the river. Animals and plants in the river and on the land are joined by the functions of the riparian forest, which include filtering water of impurities, supporting a wide variety of insects that salmon and other animals eat, stabilizing the riverbank from erosion, and providing shelter for salmon (in the form of wood that falls into the river) and other river wildlife.

While much of the riverfront in Eugene supports a healthy riparian forest, there are many areas where the forest has been destroyed or damaged. One of the ways that the Parks and Open Space Division is working to improve conditions for salmon is by restoring these forests. With the help of more than 200 dedicated volunteers, parks staff has replanted the riparian forest in several areas along the Willamette River. In Whilamut Natural Area in Alton Baker Park, over 700



trees and shrubs have been planted over the past two years and more planting is planned. Young trees and shrubs have been planted in several other areas along the river, as well. In addition to planting native plants, parks crews have been working to remove exotic, invasive species, such as Armenian blackberry, that threaten the diversity and functional integrity of our

riparian zones. Natural resource staff are hopeful that these restoration efforts will result in the re-establishment of a healthy and functional riparian forest that will support salmon and other wildlife and provide an attractive, pleasant riverfront park system for citizens to enjoy for a long time.

Much of the vision of our community, its spirit, history and future, is directly influenced by the Willamette River and the Chinook salmon that live there. The next time you visit the river, take a moment to reflect on the flowing water and the unseen salmon swimming in the river. Also notice the diversity of wildlife inhabiting the riparian forest along the river’s edge. You may hear the song sparrow’s melodic call,

observe a soaring osprey hunting for fish or see tiger swallowtail butterflies searching for nectar. These special features make our riverfront park system unique and valuable. Join us in this effort to be better stewards of

this resource by volunteering to help reforest the riparian areas of the river and by reducing pollutants that flow from your property into the stormwater system.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities along the Willamette River, contact Stream Team at 683-4850 or visit [www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/stream/stream.htm](http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/stream/stream.htm).



Volunteers plant trees and shrubs in the Whilamut natural area.

*Trevor Taylor is a natural resources coordinator for Parks and Open Space with master’s degrees in Environmental Studies and Ecology and Evolution from UO. He works closely with parks staff and other departments and agencies to manage and restore City-owned natural areas including wetlands, rivers, grasslands, and forested areas. When asked why he chose this type of work, Taylor responds, “I am interested in ecological restoration and in finding ways that we can be good neighbors to the diversity of species with which we share our home here in Eugene.”*



# RIVERFRONT PARKS

## Rasor Park Reborn

Last October, the Rasor Park Master Plan was completed after a year-long planning and public input process. The park, located on the east side of River Road off of Stults Avenue, has seen considerable activity since.

A key aspect of the master plan is restoration of the endangered native **savanna**-prairie habitat. This spring over 50 volunteers took the first steps toward realizing that vision by planting, mulching and watering native trees, shrubs and flowers donated by local nurseries. Thanks to these volunteers, a native plant community is being slowly re-established at Rasor Park.

The Friends of Rasor Park, a group of citizens who have taken an active stewardship role in the park and the surrounding area since 1996, have been behind most of the park's volunteer efforts. If you are interested in joining these efforts, e-mail Becky Riley at [briley@efn.org](mailto:briley@efn.org). For more information about the Rasor Park Master Plan, call 682-4800 or visit [www.ci.eugene.or.us/rasmpplan.htm](http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/rasmpplan.htm).

**Owen Rose Garden** contains over 400 varieties of roses and is also home to what is believed to be the country's oldest and largest Black Tartarian cherry tree, planted in 1847. In 1999, the Eugene Delta Rotarians adopted this idyllic rose garden next to the river. They have worked diligently to beautify the garden, decorating it with trellises, rose bed borders, a large pergola to adorn the walkway with climbing roses, and shortly a gazebo to be situated in the heart of the garden. This 7.5-acre display garden is located at the north end of Jefferson Street at 1st Avenue. View the garden live on the web at [www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/parks/owen/owencam.htm](http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/parks/owen/owencam.htm).

## Restoration a High Priority at Skinner Butte Park

Habitat restoration was identified as a high priority in the recently completed Skinner Butte Park Master Plan. Significant progress will be made to assess and launch habitat restoration efforts at the park this summer as a professional ecologist begins the most in-depth habitat study ever undertaken for this 90-year-old park. The study will assess the health of the park's existing habitats, which include mature forest, riparian forest and small patches of highly endangered **upland** prairie and oak **savanna**, and provide recommendations for restoring and protecting these habitats.

Skinner Butte Park supports surprisingly diverse habitats for a city of Eugene's size, especially considering its proximity to downtown. These unique features make the park an extremely valuable resource as a classroom for the community to learn about local ecology and natural systems. Protecting and enhancing this extraordinary treasure will preserve Eugene's legacy as a green and livable city.

Work is already underway in collaboration with local volunteers to restore native upland prairie near Lamb Cottage and eliminate the invasive English ivy from the forest on the north side of Skinner Butte. A long and detailed list of other habitat restoration projects at the park is available online at [www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/parks/sbp/sbpmpplan.htm](http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/parks/sbp/sbpmpplan.htm). For more information about park projects, contact parks planner Robin Hostick at 682-4915.

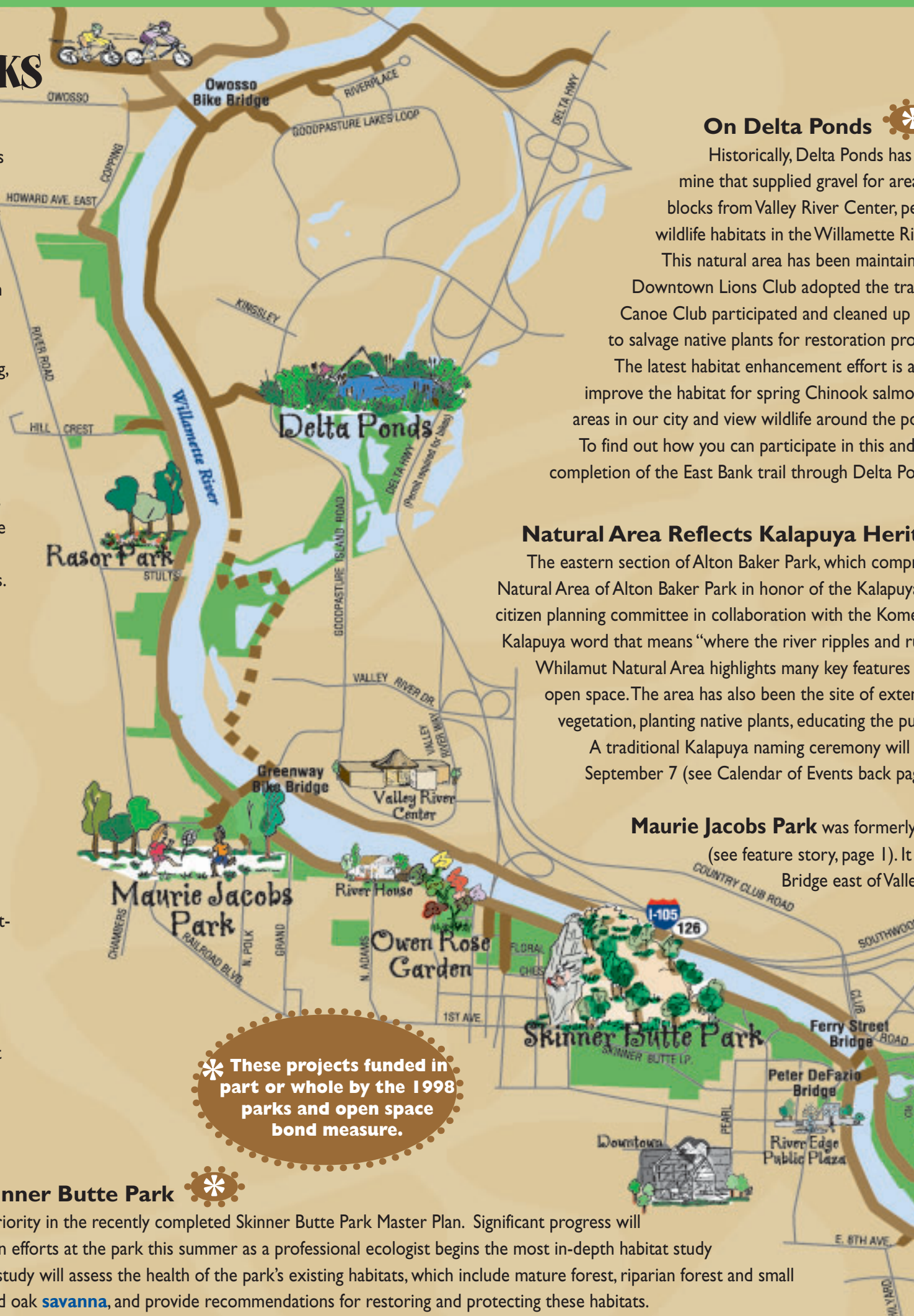
## On Delta Ponds

Historically, Delta Ponds has been a gravel mine that supplied gravel for area construction blocks from Valley River Center, peat bogs and wildlife habitats in the Willamette River. This natural area has been maintained by the Downtown Lions Club adopted the trail. The Canoe Club participated and cleaned up the area to salvage native plants for restoration projects. The latest habitat enhancement effort is a project to improve the habitat for spring Chinook salmon in the areas in our city and view wildlife around the pond. To find out how you can participate in this and other projects, visit the completion of the East Bank trail through Delta Ponds.

## Natural Area Reflects Kalapuya Heritage

The eastern section of Alton Baker Park, which comprises the Natural Area of Alton Baker Park in honor of the Kalapuya people, was created by a citizen planning committee in collaboration with the Komen Foundation. The word Kalapuya means "where the river ripples and runs." The Whilamut Natural Area highlights many key features of the open space. The area has also been the site of extensive native vegetation, planting native plants, educating the public. A traditional Kalapuya naming ceremony will be held on September 7 (see Calendar of Events back page).

**Maurie Jacobs Park** was formerly known as the River House (see feature story, page 1). It is located on the bridge east of Valley River Center.



\* These projects funded in part or whole by the 1998 parks and open space bond measure.







served as the main channel of the Willamette River, farmland, and, from 1945 to 1962, a large sand and gravel road construction projects. It is now one of the largest urban natural areas in the state of Oregon. Just a few people are bird watching, hiking, fishing, canoeing, and studying one of the most diverse and complex urban river system.

ed and improved in large part as a result of the time and energy of Eugene Stream Team volunteers. The on the east side of the ponds and sponsors community work parties twice a year. This spring the Cascade the interior islands and shorelines. Other Stream Team volunteers built a wildlife viewing platform and continue projects elsewhere in the city, maintain the western pond turtle nesting sites and control invasive vegetation. joint City of Eugene/Army Corps of Engineers project to reconnect the ponds with the Willamette River and n, western pond turtles and neotropical song birds, as well as enhance the opportunities to retreat to natural pond.

other Stream Team projects, call 682-4850 or e-mail lorna.j.baldwin@ci.eugene.or.us. Also watch for the nds this fall (see broken trail on map, left). This completes the riverfront trail system loop.

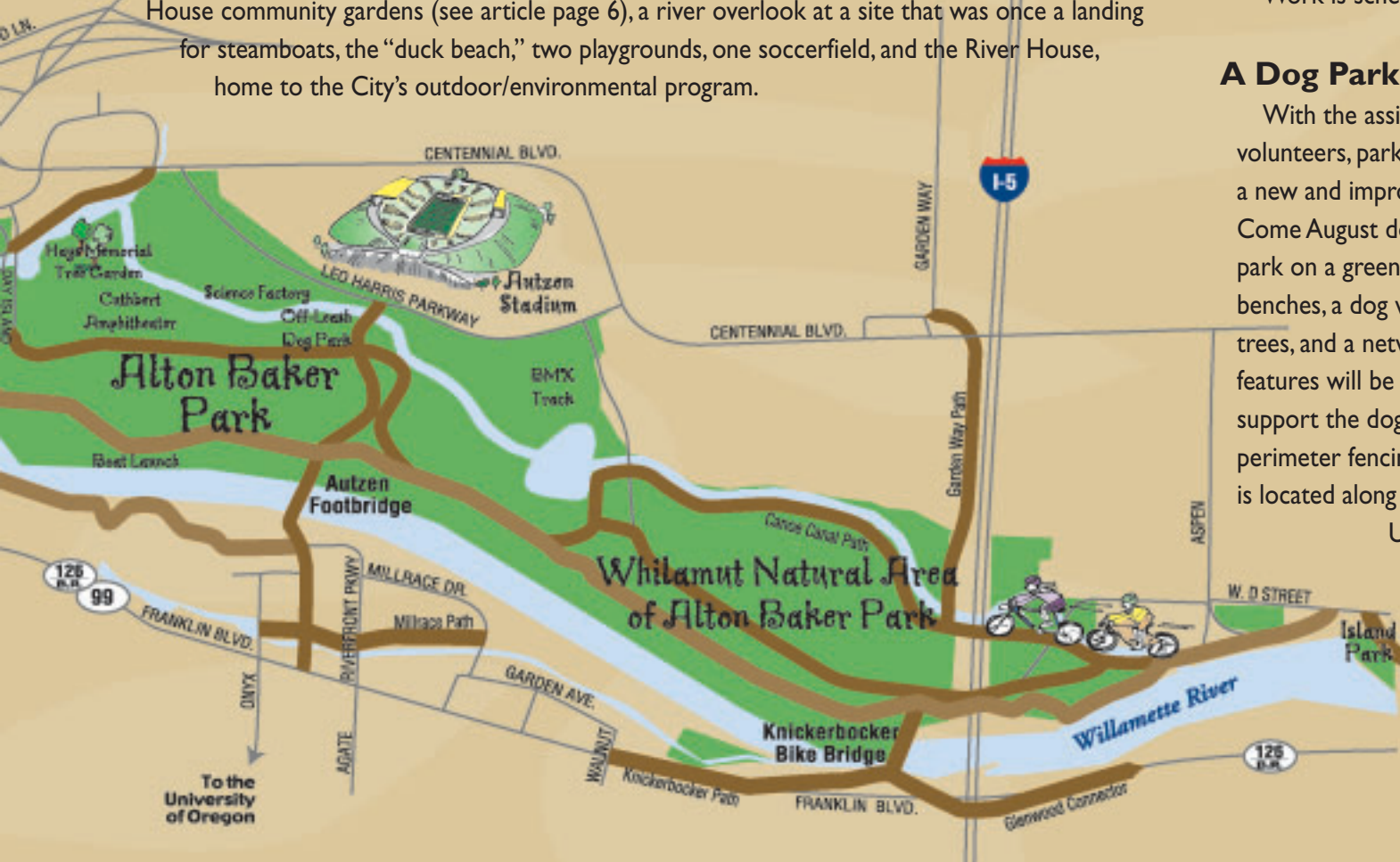
## Stage

prises 237 acres and is dedicated for passive recreation and habitat restoration, was recently renamed Whilamut a people who hunted, fished and gathered camas bulbs on this land. The renaming was initiated by the park's Emma Cultural Protection Association of the Kalapuya Tribe. Whilamut (pronounced "wheel-a-moot") is a uns fast."

of Eugene's riverfront park system. The natural area provides a link to Springfield via riverside bike paths and nsive habitat restoration efforts. Countless volunteer hours have been invested in the park removing invasive blic, and managing the park so that it remains a dedicated natural area.

officially commemorate the new name. All are invited to participate in the ceremony, scheduled for Saturday, ge).

y known as Greenway Park as it was originally acquired through the Willamette Greenway Plan of the 1970s encompasses 23.7 acres on the south bank of the river from Owen Rose Garden to the Greenway Bicycle y River Center. This park attracts many visitors through its diverse features including Whiteaker and River House community gardens (see article page 6), a river overlook at a site that was once a landing for steamboats, the "duck beach," two playgrounds, one soccerfield, and the River House, home to the City's outdoor/environmental program.



**Alton Baker Park** is the largest city park, comprising 397 acres. It includes the *Ken Nielsen Gardens*, a landscaped area at the west end of the park that features a pond, extensive walkways, plazas, an alpine rock garden, trees, shrubs and rhododendrons; *Hays Memorial Tree Garden*, a tree garden that showcases the trees of the Willamette Valley and provides opportunities to honor or memorialize loved ones through donations of trees, benches and engraved paver stones; *Whilamut Natural Area*, (see article this page); an *off-leash dog park* (see article this page); *Cuthbert Amphitheatre*, an outdoor amphitheater for summer concerts; *Alton Baker community gardens* (see article page 6); *BMX tracks* near Autzen Stadium; *Pre's Trail*, a popular running trail along the river; *Lane ESD Planetarium* and *The Science Factory*, a hands-on science museum; a *canoe canal*; and *footbridges* across the river.

There are also large picnic shelters available for rent, the site of many popular community events such as Art & the Vineyard and the Freedom Festival each year.

## Anchors Aweigh!

The City will soon begin construction of a boat launch off of Day Island Road in Alton Baker Park. The launch has been long anticipated by the local boating community as a replacement of an informal boat launch on the Willamette River that was closed in 1996. The new facility will include parking for 12 boat trailers and be landscaped with native riparian vegetation and include a bio-filtration swale and a stormwater detention area.

Work is scheduled to be completed by October.

## A Dog Park with a View

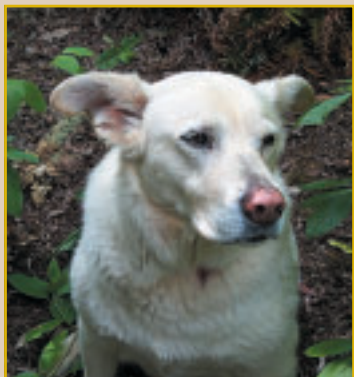
With the assistance of an enthusiastic group of volunteers, parks crews are finalizing improvements for a new and improved dog park in Alton Baker Park. Come August dogs and their owners will enter the park on a green concrete pathway and enjoy concrete benches, a dog wash station, drinking fountain, shade trees, and a network of gravel paths. Many of these features will be donated by community members who support the dog park. The park is secured by perimeter fencing and an entry gate. The new dog park is located along the Autzen footpath, near Pre's Trail.

Users of the dog park will have a commanding view of the improved Autzen Stadium and can "howl" for the home team on the appropriate Saturdays this fall. Celebrate the opening of the park on August 10 (see Calendar of Events on the back page).



## CONFESSIONS OF AN OFF-LEASH OFFENDER

Hi, my name is Zac. I'm a labrador, one of America's most popular breeds of dogs, and I love



playing at Eugene's parks. What a great place to get out and explore!

My favorite park is the Ridgeline Trail system. Last week, while using one of the trails, I was

cited \$40 for being a dog at large. Let's just say I was shocked. As I listened to Mike Wellington of the Lane County Animal Regulation Authority and my human companion discuss this situation, I soon realized the error of my ways.

There's lots of reasons I'm supposed to be on a leash:

Though I never realized it, some people find me intimidating, especially children, runners, cyclists, and those who have been bitten in the past.

Some dogs aren't as nice as I am; they might want to pick a fight and might not be up-to-date on their shots. They could spread disease to other dogs and humans.

Sometimes I just can't resist my canine instincts to chase birds or small animals. This can be very disruptive to wildlife habitat and nesting young.

The final reason I need to be on a leash is that I am not shy about where I go to the bathroom. This really hurts the environment and makes parks less enjoyable. Furthermore, it is the law that my human companion pick up my waste. You may have seen some dog rest stops around town. They provide bags for cleaning-up dog waste.

There is hope for those of us who just can't seem to get enough of that off-leash freedom. Mike told us about the four local dog parks that are made just for me and my friends. As long as I have my shots up-to-date and a license, I can run off-leash and meet new dogs at off-leash areas at Amazon, Morse Ranch, Alton Baker, and Candlelight parks.

Mike also said we could call him at 682-2370 or visit [www.lanecounty.org/animals](http://www.lanecounty.org/animals) if we need additional information on dog rules.

See all of you dogs at the off-leash parks,

 **Zac**, the Labrador Retriever

## VOLUNTEERS SALVAGE NATIVE CAMAS BULBS

Camas bulbs served as a staple food for the Kalapuya Indians who once lived in this region. The bulbs were dug in the spring with a special digging tool. Roasting pits were used to slow cook the camas to make them digestible and delicious. Merriwether Lewis described a meadow of blue camas seen from a distance for the first time as "resembling a lake of fine, clear water."

Stream Team volunteers recently salvaged camas bulbs and other plants from a site in west Eugene that is about to be converted into a parking lot. Harvest included nearly 600 Camas bulbs and some hyacinth brodiaea and Oregon saxifrage. These plants and bulbs will be used to restore other wet prairie wetlands throughout Eugene.

The crew of eight volunteers, who cared enough to come out on a hot afternoon to dig for small bulbs in hard soil, can be certain that they have made a significant contribution to re-establishing native habitat in our community. Also, special thanks to Precision Machine for allowing Stream Team to salvage the plants from their property.

The team of volunteers that worked on this project characterizes the

diversity of Stream Team volunteers.

Pictured at left they include local as well as international citizens, students, full-time

professionals, scientists, dancers and graphic artists.



Stream Team projects attract people of all ages, beliefs, occupations, and even nationalities in the common goal of protecting and restoring our urban natural environment.

Join these volunteers and more in Stream Team's summer projects, which include salvaging plants, collecting seeds, helping at the Native Plant Nursery, and stenciling storm drains. For more information, call 682-4850, e-mail [lorna.j.baldwin@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:lorna.j.baldwin@ci.eugene.or.us) or visit [www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/stream/stream.htm](http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/stream/stream.htm).








Stream Team and Audubon volunteer trail guide, Rolf Anderson, leads a small group of students from Eastside on a trip to the wetlands in west Eugene. Free trips are available by contacting Stream Team at 682-4850.

## PEOPLE AND PLANTS GROW AT EUGENE'S COMMUNITY GARDENS

For the last 23 years, the River House Outdoor Program developed and ran Eugene's community gardens. As of July, the Parks and Open Space Division assumed management of the program. They plan to continue the Outdoor Program's commitment to provide Eugene residents with the opportunity to cultivate their own gardens and experience a special connection to the earth and their community.

There are five community gardens throughout Eugene with a total of 250 plots:

-  Amazon at 27th and High,
-  Mathews at 15th and Hayes,
-  Whiteaker at the end of North Polk,
-  River House at 301 North Adams, and
-  Alton Baker at the east end of the Alton Baker Park parking lot.

If you are interested in renting a plot for next spring, call 682-4800 now.





# HELP GROW EUGENE’S URBAN FOREST

The NeighborWoods program, a partnership between neighbors, local businesses, and the City of Eugene to plant and care for street trees, is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. Over 6,000 street trees have been planted since the program was established in 1992.

Help NeighborWoods meet its goal to plant at least 350 street trees each winter planting season and enhance the quality of Eugene’s urban forest by ordering your free street tree. The only criteria is that the trees be planted in the public right-of-way within the city limits and that you agree to help plant and care for the trees near your property. City Urban Forestry staff will help you select the right tree for your area and provide on-going maintenance of the tree. Apply for your NeighborWoods tree at [www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/tree/treeform.htm](http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/tree/treeform.htm)

For those of you who are currently caring for NeighborWoods or other trees, here are some tree care tips.

- Keep a good mulch bed around the base of the tree. Be sure the mulch does not touch the trunk.
- Water slow and deep once a week. Do not rely on the shallow watering of an irrigation system. Allow the soil to dry out between waterings.
- Remove the stakes and ties after the first year if the tree looks like it is ready to stand on its own.
- Don’t use “weed and feed” fertilizers around trees.
- Keep weeds and grass from growing in the mulch bed around trees.
- Do not use a “weed whacker” or lawn mower near the tree trunk. They are the number-one killers of young trees.
- Do not raise the soil level around trees.
- Do not plant flowers or plants in the mulch bed.
- Do not “top” trees or do drastic pruning.

For more information about the NeighborWoods program, call 682-4800.



# IN CONVERSATION WITH YOUR URBAN FORESTER

## MARK SNYDER...

I recently returned from the Sixth Biennial Pacific Northwest Community Trees Conference in Boise, Idaho, where I gave a presentation about our NeighborWoods volunteer tree planting program (see article this page). Community forestry professionals from Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and Alaska were very impressed with the dedication Eugene residents show in protecting, planting and caring for trees. Many people gave me highly positive feedback about how people in Eugene step up to the plate to volunteer their time and effort to be stewards of our beautiful street



Mayor Jim Torrey digs in with young volunteers to plant Eugene’s 2002 Arbor Week tree at Westmoreland Park. This kind of dedicated stewardship helped Eugene gain recognition as a Tree City USA for the 23rd year in a row.

trees, parks and open spaces. I want to thank all of our partners, whether you are part of an official non-profit group or working on your own, for helping make Eugene the very desirable place to live, work and play that it is.

## So How Can You Help Maintain This Legacy?

Now that so many of you have planted trees this past spring (some to help recover from the February 7 windstorm damage), it’s time to mulch, water and weed. No fertilizer is necessary for newly planted trees, but water, in the right amount, is critical in every young tree’s life. Fifteen gallons of

water just once a week is usually plenty. Notice that this is not as often as the frequency that most irrigation systems are set at to water turfgrass. Planting trees too deep and watering them too often are two of the most common causes of death of young transplants.

Check out the details on mulching and weeding in the NeighborWoods article on this page. And, stop by the corner of 3rd and Lawrence to enjoy a gorgeous natural landscape treatment that is simple and inexpensive and conserves water



while returning nitrogen to the soil, all to the tree’s (and our) benefit. This “Trees for Concrete” project is a joint effort by Jeff Lanza, landscape architect at Stangeland & Associates, the Eugene Tree Foundation, the City and the owner, Jenova Land Company—another award-winning example of a private partnership with Parks and Open Space that benefits the entire community.

# GLOSSARY OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACE TERMS

All glossary words appear in this issue in **blue bold**.

- ecosystem**: a community of plants, animals, and microorganisms that are linked by energy and nutrient flows and that interact with each other and with the physical environment. For example, a prairie ecosystem includes coyotes, the rabbits on which they feed, and the grasses that feed the rabbits. Rain forests, deserts, coral reefs, grasslands, and a rotting log are all examples of ecosystems.
- riparian**: an area of streamside vegetation including the stream bank and adjoining floodplain, which is distinguishable from upland areas in terms of vegetation, soils, and topography.
- upland**: land that has soils which drain sufficiently to allow plant growth with normal oxygen exchange in the root zone (as opposed to a wetland, where soil characteristics and plant communities are altered in response to seasonally saturated soil conditions)
- savanna**: an ecosystem with widely scattered trees and a ground layer dominated by grasses and **forbs**. It is a transitional habitat between prairie and woodland or forest.
- forb**: a small, herbaceous (non-woody), broad-leaved vascular plant (excluding grasses, rushes, sedges, etc.). For example, wild flowers are a type of forb.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## July 29-August 2

*Under the Big Top, Fun for All*, free, drop-in, summer, recreational program at Peterson, State Street, Sladden, Trainsong, University, Awbrey, Monroe, and Washington parks, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For specific program information and locations, call **682-5361**.

## August 1

*Coupe deVille* classic rock & roll dance show band, Petersen Barn 6:30 p.m., free

## August 3

*The Tempest*, Shakespeare, on the south lawn at Amazon Park, 6 p.m., free **682-5373**

*Steps for Life Run/Walk*, Alton Baker Park, 9-11 a.m., sponsored by Lane Pregnancy Support Center, **345-0400**

## August 4

*The Tempest*, see August 3

*Emerald Horn Club*, classical concert, Washburne Park, 6:30 p.m., free, **344-0483**

*Blackberry Bramble 67-100 mile recreational bike ride*, Alton Baker Park, noon-6 p.m., registration fee, GEARS Cycling Club, **683-5459**

## August 5-9

*Prehistoric Playground, Fun for All*, free, drop-in, summer recreational program in city parks (see July 29-August 2), 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For specific program information, call **682-5361**.

## August 6

*Lo Nuestro*, Cumbia, Merengue and Salsa dance music from Cuba, Mexico and Columbia, Washington/Jefferson Park, 6:30 p.m., free

## August 8

*Norma Fraser*, Jamaican reggae, Churchill Youth Sports Park, 6:30 p.m., free

## August 10

*Alton Baker Off-Leash Dog Park Grand Opening*, lot 8, off Leo Harris Parkway, 10:30 a.m., free, **682-4845**

*Willow Creek work party*, W. 18th Ave., just west of Bertelsen, 9:30 a.m.-noon, **682-4927**

*The Tempest*, see August 3

## August 11

*Brass Bash* concert, Washburne Park, 6:30 p.m., free, **344-0483**

*The Tempest*, see August 3

## August 12-16

*Things with Wings, Fun for All*, free, drop-in, summer recreational program in city parks (see July 29-August 2), 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For specific program information, call **682-5361**.

## August 17

*The Tempest*, see August 3

*Free the Trees!* ivy removal project, F.M. Wilkins Shelter, Hendricks Park, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. **682-5324**

## August 18

*One More Time Marching Band*, Washburne Park, 6:30 p.m., free, **344-0483**

*The Tempest*, see August 3

## August 19-23

*Summer Fun for All*, free, drop-in, summer recreational program in city parks (see July 29-August 2), 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For specific program information, call **682-5361**.

## August 24

*The Tempest*, see August 3

*2nd Annual Million Meals Walk/Run*, a benefit for FOOD for Lane County's hunger relief programs, family entertainment by Zambuko, prizes, refreshments, storytelling, Alton Baker Park South Shelter, 7 a.m.-noon, **343-2822** or [www.goodrace.com](http://www.goodrace.com)

## August 25

*Eugene Symphonic Band*, Washburne Park, 6:30 p.m., free, **344-0483**

*The Tempest*, see August 3

*Pet Lover's Party in the Park*, Alton Baker Park, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Bearen Foundation, 242-3827 or [www.bearenfoundation.org](http://www.bearenfoundation.org)

## August 31

*The Tempest*, see August 3

## September 1

*Emerald Renaissance Band*, Washburne Park, 6:30 p.m., free, **344-0483**

## September 2

*Winds with Winds*, classical concert, Washburne Park, 6:30 p.m., free, **344-0483**

## September 7

*Traditional Kalapuya Naming Ceremony of Whilamut Natural Area of Alton Baker Park*, Eastgate Woodlands, the Springfield entrance to Alton Baker Park, just south of the intersection of D and Aspen streets, 10 a.m., free, **682-4914**

## September 8

*Dillard Gang (brass quintet)*, Washburne Park, 6:30 p.m., free, **344-0483**

## September 14

*Willow Creek work party*, see August 10

## September 20-22

*Northwest of Normal Eugene Celebration*, entertainment and arts showcase, including the popular parade at 8 a.m. Saturday. Downtown parks blocks, Friday, 6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, 11 a.m.-midnight, Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., **681-4108**

## September 21

*Free the Trees!* ivy removal project, see August 17

## September 28

*Walk for the Gold Special Olympics Oregon* fundraising event, Alton Baker Park, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., pre register, **747-3536**

## September 29

*Whale of a Day*, free Oregon Coast Aquarium children's program, obstacle course, story-telling, musicians, Alton Baker Park, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., **607-0899**

## October 6

*Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk*, Alton Baker Park, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., \$10 donation, register at entrance, **870-0501**

## October 12

*15th Annual Great Rotary Duck Race*, fundraiser to prevent child abuse. Event includes a pancake breakfast at 8 a.m., entertainment, lunch, children's activities, and river duck race at noon. Alton Baker Park, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., **682-3773**

*Walk for Life* fundraiser for Willamette Valley Cancer Center, Alton Baker Park, 10- a.m.-noon, \$20 registration fee, **687-0402**

*Willow Creek work party*, see August 10

## October 26

*Haunted Hike*, Nearby Nature children's program, hike, crafts, treats, Alton Baker Park, 5:30-9 p.m., free for members; nonmembers \$5 per person, pre-register at **687-9699**

## November 9

*Willow Creek work party*, see August 10



## FOOTBALL PARKING AT THE PARK

To ensure that Alton Baker Park remains available for general recreational use during UO football games this fall, parking at the park will be monitored. Parking for games will be allowed in designated areas only and is anticipated to cost \$10. Once the designated areas are full, no more football parking will be allowed. Recreational parking remains free.

The Duck's national success and enlarged stadium mean even more enthusiastic fans will turn out for games, impacting the area surrounding Autzen Stadium, including the park. Parking management will enable us to serve the general public's needs while providing available parking for football fans. Thank you in advance for your cooperation, and GO DUCKS!